technology/ trafic parks in the small and big cities in the country for the development of children ;

(b) if so, the places identified for the location of such parks, State-wise and district-wise ; and

(c) the allocation made by Government for the purpose during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) No, Sir.

" (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expert Panel to Examine the Seismic Survey

1039. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAlIRAO SHINDE : SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

/Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government had set up an expert panel to examine the seismic survey conducted in Southern Maharashtra prior to September 30 earthquake that struck the Latur—Osmanabad belt of that State;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the panel; and

(c) what follow-up action, if any has been or is being taken in the light thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE Op THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH NOLQGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Sh. B. ,K. Rao, Ex-Secretary . to the Govt, of India, Deptt. of Mines to:—

(i) Look into the various survey reports particularly those pertaining to the affected regions and assess the follow up actions taken on such reports by the concerned agencies.

(ii) While identifying inadequacies, if any recommend appropriate corrective measures to be taken by various organisations.

(iii) Indicate the various possible steps that may have to be taken to cover the seismological surveys in the Peninsular region, keeping in mind, the relevant parts of the proposed Mission Mode Project on Cyclone Warning and Seismic Observations.

(iv) Any other matter relevant to the above.

The Committee was asked to give its report within 30 days. The Committee has, since, submitted its report.

The highlights of the recommendations are :

(a) Establishment of the Indian Institute of Seismology as an autonomous'organisation. The Institute will look after the operational, research and coordination aspects of seismology in the country.

(b) Creation of the post of Chief Seismologist to the Government of India who will also be the Head of the proposed Institute of Seismology.

(c) Modernisation and expansion of seismological observatory network in the country so as to be able to record low magnitude earthquakes both in the Peninsular and Himalayan regions.

(d) Training of manpower to man the observatories and the Institute of Seismology.

(e) Refining of the seismic zoning map with added seismotectonic and lithological details.

(f) Micro-zoning of Dehi, Bombay, Calcutta and Ahmedabad.

(g) Itegration of remote sensing, geo-tectonic and seismicity maps to be taken up.

(h) The codes, drawn up by the Bureau of Indian Standards to be adapted to the regions of the country by presenting the same in terms of the locally popular, traditional building materials and architectural and building practices.

(c) The following follow-up actions have been initiated :-—

(i) A proposal for the creation of the post of Chief Seismologist has been taken up.

(ii) A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. S. Arya, Prof. Emeritus, Roo-kee University to update the Mission Mode Project on Seismic Observations taking into account the requirements of Peninsular India and other parts of the country.

(iii) A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. K. Arora, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, (BARC), Bombay to priorotise seismic instrumentation in Peninsular India on an urgent basis.

(iv) Projects are being launched for studying geologic and geophysical features of the Marathwada region using remote sensing and ground surveys.

(v) A Group has been constituted with representatives from Department of Science & Technology, National Geophysical Research Institute, Department of Mines, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to issue ' periodic bulletins on the seismic activity of Marathwada region. The Bulletins wilt cover the various aspects of the seismic activity, after effects, the rehabilitation and health care requirements. So far, five bulletins have been issued. The dissemination is being done in multilingual media.

Quake-Proof Designs of Houses

1040. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to provide quake-proof designs of houses for urban and rural areas and for housing bodies; and

(b) if so, what activities have been undertaken in research design a publicity in rural areas by the CSIR, CBRI or NGRI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DE-PARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH-NOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATUR-VEDI) : (a) and (b) A number of Government and other agencies have already initiated action in this regard in view of the extensive damage caused by the recent earthquakes.

Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Rookee, a constituent Institute of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) had designed pre-fabri-cated intermediate level shelters known as 'Kedar Kuti', for temporary rehabilitation of earthquake hit people of Uttar Kashi during 1991. Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department and other organisations constructed a few thousands of such shelters in Uttar Kashi region. This Institute is also assisting Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) in selecting appropriate earthquake resistant and cost effective technologies for reconstruction of houses in areas hit by the recent earthquakes.